

# Big John Salvage - Hoult Road

**EPA Region 3**  
West Virginia  
Fairmount  
Marion County

**EPA ID#** WVD054827944

**Last Update:** August 2002

**1st Congressional District**

**Other Names:**  
Big John Salvage

## Current Site Status

On March 31, 2000, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a Determination of Threat to Public Health or Welfare or the Environment, which found that conditions at the site presents or may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment. EPA has negotiated an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with two of the three potentially responsible parties (PRP), parties responsible for site contamination, and has issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to the third PRP. The AOC and UAO spell out the type of work that must be conducted by the PRPs under EPA supervision to remove the imminent and substantial threat.

EPA is supervising work that will eliminate releases of tar seeps to surface water and the Monogahela River, remove the glass cullet (crushed fluorescent light bulbs) pile and stabilize other areas so that hazardous materials do not leave the site. Additional removal work was conducted by EPA using Fund monies to repair a sedimentation

basin and manage surface water run-off so that contaminated sediments are not released into the Monogahela River. Following completion of removal actions, EPA will make long term cleanup decisions at the site through the Remedial Program. EPA reviewed and approved the Final Report for the cullet Removal, conducted under the AOC, in August 2001.

Due to the refusal of the third PRP to fully implement the Removal Action Plan approved to address the work called for in the UAO, EPA took over the Removal Action and is currently performing actions necessary to abate the imminent and substantial endangerment. As of August 2002, the EPA Removal Branch is continuing removal activities at the site. On June 4, 2002, EPA provided the PRPs with special notice letters requesting a meeting to start negotiations for performance of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study ("RI/FS"). The PRPs declined EPA's request to perform the RI/FS. As a result, EPA is currently planning to perform the RI/FS using Superfund money.

## **Site Description**

Big John Salvage Hoult Road Site is located on the east side of Fairmont, Marion County on the east bank of the Monongahela River. The site is approximately 20 acres, with deciduous forest surrounding the site to the south and west. The Sharon Steel/Fairmont Coke Superfund Site borders the site to the east, Hoult Road borders to the north and the Monongahela River borders the site to the west. The area surrounding the site is residential and light industrial.

The site was owned by Reilly Tar and Chemical Corporation (RTCC) from 1932 to 1973. Approximately 12,000 gallons of crude tar waste from the nearby Domestic Coke Corporation and Dupont Coke plant were processed at the site daily from 1932 until 1957. Crude tar was pumped from tank cars to storage tanks, and later separated by distillation and condensation processes. The creosote product was removed, stored, and sold as a wood preserving compound. Acid oil was removed and treated in an extraction unit to remove phenol, and the tar was sold to the state road commission for road construction. The oil would then be cooled to remove naphthalene and other compounds which were then sold as a product. Any remaining crude acids were shipped to other Reilly plants for final processing.

Wastes generated during the above years were retained in a pond near the southern property line or disposed of in various areas on site. The pond also received wastes from the three on-site sewers and several drainage ditches. All cooling waters, acid wastes, and tar wastes were supposed to pass through the pond. Discharge from the retention pond flowed through a pipe into an unnamed tributary which emptied into the Monongahela River. Coal tar seeps and constituents of the coal tar refining process have been found to be actively releasing from the site.

In January 1973, the RTCC sold its property on Hoult Road to Big John Salvage. Big John Salvage owned and operated a salvage facility at the site until 1997. During its operation, Big John Salvage accepted various scrap and salvageable materials as well as waste materials at the site.

In 1997, the land was purchased by Steel Fabricators, Inc. apparently for timber operations.

### **Site Responsibility**


Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of Federal and State governments, and parties potentially responsible for site contamination.

### **NPL Listing History**

This site was proposed to the National Priorities List of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites requiring long-term cleanup action on February 4, 2000. The site was formally added to the list in the July 27, 2000, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

## **Threats and Contaminants**

Specific contaminants detected in the surface water, sediments and soils include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (collectively known as BTEX), inorganic compounds such as mercury, lead, cadmium and arsenic, and semi-volatile compounds such as polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), as well as coal tar and creosote-type compounds from former site activities.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

## Cleanup Progress

The imminent and substantial endangerment posed by conditions related to the work called for in the AOC, has been abated and the final report approved. EPA has taken over and is currently implementing actions necessary to fully address conditions outlined in the UAO.

## Contacts

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The detailed Administrative Record can be examined at the following locations:

Marion County Public Library

321 Monroe Street

Fairmont, WV 26554

304-366-1210

U.S. EPA Region III

Public Reading Room

1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

215-814-3157